

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 100086

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 EUR-12 IO-13 SSM-05 AF-08

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER:DP

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MS. GREEN

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

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R 241847Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NY

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PAGE 02 STATE 100086

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION SINAI
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
APRIL 23, 1976:

Q. THERE ARE REPORTS TODAY THAT JORDANIAN AND SOVIET
MILITARY OFFICIALS AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL ARE GOING TO MEET
TO CONSIDER A SOVIET-BUILT AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FOR JORDAN.
DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT, AND DOES THIS INDICATE
FINALLY THAT THE HAWK SALE HAS FALLEN THROUGH COMPLETELY?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE MEETING. I THINK WE
HAVE SAID THAT WE STILL CONSIDER THE HAWK DEAL ALIVE.

Q. WHAT WOULD BE THE RAMIFICATION, IF THEY WENT AHEAD WITH
THE SOVIETS ANYWAY?

A. I CAN ONLY ANSWER THAT QUESTION WHEN WHAT YOU ARE TALK-
ING ABOUT TRANSPIRES. I WOULD NOT WANT TO GET AHEAD OF
IT.

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PAGE 03 STATE 100086

THE SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY, I COULD ALSO REMIND YOU,
THAT WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE SAUDIS AND THE JORDANIS ON
THIS, AND THAT IS IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE FUNDING
PROBLEM.

Q. I THINK YOU TOOK A QUESTION -- ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE
RAYTHEON CONTRACT. DID YOU EVER GET AN ANSWER?

A. I AM NOT SURE WE DID. I WILL HAVE TO CHECK THAT.
I DO NOT THINK I HAVE ONE HERE. I DO NOT HAVE IT, NO.

I WILL HAVE TO LOOK INTO THAT.

Q. IF THAT REPORT IS TRUE, TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

Q. IS A STRIPPED-DOWN DEAL BEING PROPOSED, AS REPORTED IN THE POST TODAY?

A. WELL, AGAIN, I WOULD ONLY SAY WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE JORDANIANS AND THE SAUDIS ON THIS, AND THOSE CONVERSATIONS ARE CONTINUING.

Q. DO YOU KNOW IF THOSE SIX TRANSPORT PLANES TO EGYPT HAVE LEFT THE UNITED STATES?

A. I DO NOT.

Q. COULD YOU CHECK, PLEASE? I BELIEVE THAT PERIOD OF TIME HAS ELAPSED FOR THE CONGRESS TO ACT, AND SO IT'S A FORMAL DEAL NOW. I WAS JUST WONDERING IF IT HAD BEEN ACTED UPON YET.

A. I THINK THAT IS RIGHT. (RESPONSE REFERS TO THE PERIOD OF TIME FOR CONGRESS TO ACT.)

Q. NO, BUT THE QUESTION IS: HAVE THEY SIGNED THE PAPERS YET? I MEAN, THAT WAS A LETTER OF NOTIFICATION. HAVE THEY ACTUALLY SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH EGYPT?

A. I WILL TRY TO FIND OUT.

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PAGE 04 STATE 100086

SUBSEQUENT TO THE BRIEFING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS:

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE EXPIRATION OF THE RAYTHEON (HAWK) CONTRACT WE ASKED ABOUT THE OTHER DAY, DOES IT EXPIRE AT THE END OF THE MONTH?

A. THE RAYETHON CONTRACTS HAVE NO FORMAL EXPIRATION DATES. AS HAS BEEN EXPLAINED PREVIOUSLY, THESE CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN PLACED IN A "HOLD" STATUS PENDING COMPLETION OF FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS. I PREFER NOT TO SPECULATE ABOUT HOW LONG IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO KEEP PRODUCTION UNDER THESE CONTRACTS IN A "HOLD" STATUS.

Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE C- 130 SALE TO EGYPT? HAVE THE PLANES LEFT THE U.S., HAS A CONTRACT BEEN SIGNED?

A. SINCE THE 20-DAY PERIOD REQUIRED BY LAW FOR CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW HAS ENDED, THE C-130 TRANSACTION WITH EGYPT IS GOING FORWARD. WE ARE CURRENTLY DISCUSSING THE LETTER OF OFFER FOR THE SALE OF THE C-130'S WITH THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT. ONCE THE TERMS OF SALE ARE AGREED, THE CONTRACT WILL BE SIGNED AND THE PLANES DELIVERED. WE EXPECT THAT THESE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT WILL MOVE FORWARD RAPIDLY AND THAT THE SALE OF THE SIX C-130'S WILL BE CONSUMMATED EXPEDITIOUSLY.

EAGLEBURGER

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